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Bandwidth Allocation

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Bandwidth Allocation

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TECHNICAL FIELD

4 [0001] This disclosure relates in general to bandwidth allocation and in
5 particular, by way of example but not limitation, to allocating currently-available
6 bandwidth responsive to unserviced bandwidth amounts from previous bandwidth
7 allocation requests.

8

9

BACKGROUND

10 [0002] Computer networks have facilitated the exchange of information for
11 decades. Such computer networks include both wired networks and wireless
12 networks. Historically, wired networks such as local area networks (LANs) that
13 operate in accordance with e.g. an IEEE 802.3 standard were commonly created.
14 Recently, wireless networks that operate in accordance with e.g. an IEEE 802.11
15 or 802.15 standard are becoming more prevalent. Wireless networks that comport
16 with IEEE 802.11 are typically referred to as wireless LANs (WLANs). Wireless
17 networks that comport with IEEE 802.15.3 are typically referred to as wireless
18 personal area networks (WPANs).

19 [0003] IEEE 802.15.3 in particular defines a physical layer and a Medium
20 Access Control (MAC) layer for WPAN systems. IEEE 802.15.3 WPAN typically
21 relates to wireless ad hoc networks that allow a number of devices to communicate
22 with each other. Such networks are often termed piconets. A set of devices
23 forming a given piconet share a limited available transmission bandwidth in a
24 variable and often changing manner. One device of the set of devices is
25 established as the piconet coordinator.

1 **[0004]** The piconet coordinator is responsible for system timing, quality of
2 service (QoS) control, power management, security, and so forth. The piconet
3 coordinator is also capable of distributing the available limited bandwidth among
4 the various other devices of the set of devices of a given piconet. However, the
5 IEEE 802.15.3 standard is open with regard to appropriate algorithms to employ
6 and/or factors to consider when distributing the limited bandwidth. Unfortunately,
7 poor bandwidth distribution can result in inefficient use of the available limited
8 bandwidth as well as an unacceptable job failure rate (JFR), especially for real-
9 time communications such as those for streamed video.

10 **[0005]** Accordingly, there is a need for schemes and/or techniques that can
11 allocate limited bandwidth among multiple streams in an effective manner.

12

13 **SUMMARY**

14 **[0006]** In accordance with certain described implementation(s), a
15 coordinating device performs bandwidth allocation procedures based on
16 information from previously-unfulfilled bandwidth allocation requests and
17 responsive to current bandwidth allocation requests. The current bandwidth
18 allocation requests stipulate current requested bandwidth amounts for multiple
19 streams, and the current bandwidth allocation requests may be received from
20 multiple entities having the multiple streams. The information from previously-
21 unfulfilled bandwidth allocation requests is taken into account when allocating
22 available bandwidth between/among the multiple streams of the multiple entities
23 for the current requested bandwidth amounts.

24 **[0007]** Other method, system, approach, apparatus, device, media,
25 procedure, arrangement, etc. implementations are described herein.

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2 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

3 [0008] The same numbers are used throughout the drawings to reference
4 like and/or corresponding aspects, features, and components.

5 [0009] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary wireless network formed from
6 multiple general devices and a device coordinator.

7 [0010] FIG. 2 is an exemplary air interface format that illustrates a
8 superframe for the wireless network of FIG. 1.

9 [0011] FIG. 3 is an exemplary sequence diagram illustrating bandwidth
10 allocation by the device coordinator for the multiple general devices.

11 [0012] FIG. 4 is a flow diagram that illustrates an exemplary method for
12 bandwidth allocation in the wireless network.

13 [0013] FIG. 5 is a flow diagram that illustrates another exemplary method
14 for bandwidth allocation in the wireless network.

15 [0014] FIG. 6 is an exemplary bandwidth allocation for one general device
16 over two superframes.

17 [0015] FIG. 7 is an exemplary bandwidth allocation for two general devices
18 over one superframe.

19 [0016] FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary computing (or general device)
20 operating environment that is capable of (wholly or partially) implementing at
21 least one aspect of bandwidth allocation as described herein.

22

23 **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

24 [0017] FIG. 1 illustrates an exemplary wireless network 100 formed from
25 multiple general devices 102(A,B,D,E) and a device coordinator 102(C). Wireless

1 network 100 includes five devices 102 that are capable of wireless
2 communication; however, a different number of devices 102 may alternatively
3 form wireless network 100. As indicated by a key 112, data communications are
4 represented by solid lines, and allocation broadcast communications are
5 represented by dashed lines.

6 [0018] In a described implementation, each device 102 is capable of
7 forming and/or participating in an ad hoc wireless network. Each device 102 may
8 be a laptop computer, a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), an input
9 device, and so forth. Other exemplary realizations for devices 102 are described
10 further below with reference to FIG. 8.

11 [0019] Each device 102 may be similar to or different from each other
12 device 102 in terms of size/shape, intended purpose, processing ability,
13 programming, and so forth. Regardless, one device 102 is established as the
14 device coordinator 102. For example, the most powerful device 102 may be
15 selected as the device coordinator 102. Among other possible coordination
16 functions, the device coordinator is capable of allocating bandwidth among the
17 general devices 102 for wireless communications within wireless network 100.

18 [0020] As illustrated, device 102(C) is the designated device coordinator
19 102(C), and devices 102(A,B,D,E) are general devices 102(A,B,D,E). Device
20 coordinator 102(C) is shown sending an allocation broadcast (dashed lines) to
21 general devices 102(A,B,D,E). Device 102(A) is shown transmitting/exchanging
22 data with devices 102(B), 102(D), and 102(E). Device 102(B) is shown also
23 transmitting/exchanging data with device 102(E), and device 102(D) is shown also
24 transmitting/exchanging data with device coordinator 102(C) and device 102(E).

25

1 [0021] Each device 102, such as device coordinator 102(C), includes a
2 processor 104, a transceiver 106, and a memory 108. A transmitter and/or receiver
3 (i.e., a transceiver) 106 is capable of sending/transmitting wireless
4 communications from and receiving wireless communications at device
5 coordinator 102(C). Memory 108 includes processor-executable instructions that
6 are executable by processor 104 to effectuate particular device 102 functions. At
7 least for coordinating devices 102 such as device coordinator 102(C), memory 108
8 includes bandwidth allocation logic 110, which may comprise processor-
9 executable instructions. More generally, bandwidth allocation logic 110 may
10 comprise hardware, software, firmware, or analog component(s), some
11 combination thereof, and so forth. Additional exemplary components, aspects, etc.
12 for devices 102 are described further below with reference to FIG. 8.

13 [0022] By way of example only, wireless network 100 may be realized as a
14 piconet operating in accordance with a WPAN of an IEEE 802.15.3 standard. As
15 such, each device 102 may be realized as a basic component of a piconet, which is
16 termed a device (DEV). Thus, device coordinator 102(C) may be realized as a
17 piconet coordinator (PNC) that performs the central controlling functionalities of
18 the piconet.

19 [0023] FIG. 2 is an exemplary air interface format 200 that illustrates a
20 superframe 202 for wireless network 100. Three superframes 202(m-1), 202(m),
21 and 202(m+1) are explicitly shown. Each superframe 202 is divided into at least
22 two periods 204. These two periods include an allocation broadcast period 204(A)
23 and a data transmission period 204(B). Data transmission period 204(B) is further
24 divided into multiple time slots 208 for a network dividing the available limited
25 bandwidth by time.

1 [0024] Hence, in a described implementation, air interface format 200
2 adheres to a time division multiple access (TDMA) technology at the medium
3 access control (MAC) layer in order to share the available bandwidth. As shown
4 for superframe #m 202(m) in particular, each superframe 202 includes allocation
5 notifications 206 of allocation broadcast period 204(A) followed by time slots
6 208(1), 208(2), 208(3) ... 208(n) of data transmission period 204(B). Although
7 not explicitly shown, each superframe 202 may also include other periods 204 and
8 portions thereof.

9 [0025] In operation of wireless network 100 (of FIG. 1), device coordinator
10 102(C) uses the allocation notifications 206 portion of allocation broadcast period
11 204(A) to inform each of the general devices 102(A,B,D,E) of a respective time
12 slot 208 that has been allocated to each of their respective streams (not shown in
13 FIG. 2). Each respective general device 102(A,B,D,E) thereafter uses its
14 respective allocated time slot(s) 208 for each respective stream to transmit data to
15 another device 102.

16 [0026] The total available time duration or temporal bandwidth that can be
17 assigned into time slots 208 is data transmission period 204(B). Each time slot
18 208 may be of a different length as determined by device coordinator 102(C).
19 Consequently, the position and duration of each time slot 208 is communicated
20 with allocation notifications 206. For example, one or more tags indicating the
21 length and locations of time slots 208 may be added to a MAC header.

22 [0027] By way of example only for an IEEE 802.15.3 implementation,
23 allocation notifications 206 of allocation broadcast period 204(A) may be realized
24 as a beacon that is transmitted by the PNC. Data transmission period 204(B) may
25 be realized as the channel time allocation period (CTAP) in the structure of a

1 superframe as defined in IEEE 802.15.3. Similarly, time slots 208 may be realized
2 as CTAs. Between allocation broadcast period 204(A) and data transmission
3 period 204(B), a superframe may also include the optional contention access
4 period based on carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance
5 (CSMA/CA) as defined in IEEE 802.15.3.

6 [0028] FIG. 3 is an exemplary sequence diagram illustrating bandwidth
7 allocation by device coordinator 102(C) for streams 310(A,B,D,E) of general
8 devices 102(A,B,D,E). Each respective general device 102(A,B,D,E) sends a
9 respective bandwidth allocation request (BAR) 302(A,B,D,E) to device
10 coordinator 102(C) on behalf of each respective stream 310(A,B,D,E). For clarity
11 of explanation in the following description, each device 102 is assumed to have
12 one stream 310. However, one or more devices 102 may support more than one
13 stream 310. For cases with multiple streams 310 for one or more devices 102,
14 bandwidth allocation as described herein may be applied to each stream 310
15 accordingly, regardless of the number of streams 310 per device 102.

16 [0029] Thus, each respective general device 102(A,B,D,E) sends a
17 respective bandwidth allocation request (BAR) 302(A,B,D,E) to device
18 coordinator 102(C) for their respective streams (e.g., data streams such as video
19 streams). Device coordinator 102(C) performs a bandwidth allocation procedure
20 304 to allocate bandwidth responsive to bandwidth allocation requests
21 302(A,B,D,E). After bandwidth allocation procedure 304, device coordinator
22 102(C) sends allocation broadcast 308 for each stream 310(A,B,D,E) to general
23 devices 102(A,B,D,E).

24 [0030] In a described implementation, each bandwidth allocation request
25 302 stipulates a requested bandwidth amount. The bandwidth amount may be, for

1 example, a number of time unit(s), a number of frequency or frequencies (e.g., in a
2 frequency division multiple access (FDMA) system), a number of code(s) (e.g., in
3 a code division multiple access (CDMA) system), some combination thereof, and
4 so forth. Similarly, each superframe 202 may be a grouping of bandwidth
5 amounts generally, such as a grouping of frequencies, codes, etc.

6 [0031] Device coordinator 102(C) has access to (e.g., has previously stored)
7 information 306 related to previous unfulfilled BARs 306. Previous unfulfilled
8 BARs information 306 includes the unserviced bandwidth portion of a previous
9 requested bandwidth amount.

10 [0032] Bandwidth allocation procedure 304 is performed by device
11 coordinator 102(C) based on previous unfulfilled BARs information 306 and
12 responsive to bandwidth allocation requests 302(A,B,D,E). In a sense, bandwidth
13 allocation procedure 304 is therefore able to effectuate an inferred deadline-aware
14 scheduling (DAS) algorithm inasmuch as an unserviced bandwidth amount from a
15 previous bandwidth allocation request 302 is more likely to be at or near a
16 deadline as compared to a newly-arrived bandwidth amount that is requested.
17 Respective allocated bandwidth amounts resulting from bandwidth allocation
18 procedure 304 are sent to respective general devices 102(A,B,D,E) from device
19 coordinator 102(C) with allocation broadcast 308.

20 [0033] FIG. 4 is a flow diagram 400 that illustrates an exemplary method for
21 bandwidth allocation in wireless network 100. Flow diagram 400 includes four
22 (4) blocks 402-408. Although the actions of blocks 402-408 may be performed in
23 other implementations and environments, FIGS. 1-3 are used in particular to
24 illuminate certain aspects of the method. For example, the actions of flow
25 diagram 400 may be performed by a device coordinator 102(C).

1 [0034] At block 402, a bandwidth allocation request stipulating a requested
2 bandwidth amount is received from an entity for a stream thereof. For example, a
3 bandwidth allocation request 302(A) that stipulates a requested bandwidth amount
4 for a current superframe 202(m) may be received from device 102(A) for a stream
5 310(A) at device coordinator 102(C). Generally, an entity may be a device, a user,
6 some combination thereof, and so forth.

7 [0035] At block 404, a previous unserviced bandwidth amount of the stream
8 of the entity is ascertained. For example, device coordinator 102(C) may retrieve
9 from memory 108 a stored unserviced bandwidth amount for stream 310(A) of
10 device 102(A) from previous superframe 202 (e.g., the immediately previous
11 superframe 202(m-1)).

12 [0036] At block 406, an allocated bandwidth amount for the stream of the
13 entity is determined based on the ascertained previous unserviced bandwidth
14 amount of the stream of the entity. For example, a bandwidth amount allocated to
15 stream 310(A) of device 102(A) for current superframe 202(m) may be
16 determined by device coordinator 102(C) based on the ascertained previous
17 unserviced bandwidth amount of previous superframe 202(m-1) of stream 310(A)
18 of device 102(A) and responsive to bandwidth allocation request 302(A).

19 [0037] At block 408, the determined allocated bandwidth amount for the
20 stream is sent to the entity. For example, the determined allocated bandwidth
21 amount for current superframe 202(m) is sent to device 102(A) from device
22 coordinator 102(C) (e.g., with a reference to stream 310(A)) as a part of allocation
23 notifications 206 of allocation broadcast period 204(A) as at least a portion of
24 allocation broadcast 308.

25

1 [0038] In a described implementation and with reference to FIGS. 1-4, each
2 current bandwidth allocation request 302 of a current superframe 202(m) stipulates
3 a current requested bandwidth amount that includes a previous unserviced
4 bandwidth amount from a previous superframe 202(m-1). The previous
5 unserviced bandwidth amount can be calculated by device coordinator 102(C) as
6 indicated by equation (1):

7

$$8 \quad \text{Unserviced}(m-1) = \text{Requested}(m-1) - \text{Allocated}(m-1), \quad (1)$$

9

10 where the allocated bandwidth amount from the previous superframe 202(m-1) is
11 the bandwidth amount that the requesting general stream 310 of general device
12 102 was assigned by device coordinator 102(C) in that previous superframe
13 202(m-1). The previous unserviced bandwidth amount is stored by device
14 coordinator 102(C) or otherwise retained thereby for subsequent access thereto.

15 [0039] In a current superframe 202(m), the current requested bandwidth
16 amount includes a newly-arrived bandwidth amount as well as the previous
17 unserviced bandwidth amount. Because device coordinator 102(C) has access to
18 the previous unserviced bandwidth amount, device coordinator 102(C) can
19 compute the newly-arrived bandwidth amount as follows in equation (2):

20

$$21 \quad \text{NewlyArrived}(m) = \text{Requested}(m) - \text{Unserviced}(m-1). \quad (2)$$

22

23 [0040] A respective reserved bandwidth amount that is assigned to each
24 respective stream 310 of the general device 102 in each superframe 202(m) may
25 be computed as indicated by equation (3):

1

2 $Reserved(m) = \alpha \times Reserved(m-1) + (1-\alpha) \times NewlyArrived(m) . \quad (3)$

3

4 In equation (3), α is a smoothing factor that can be used to modulate (e.g., retard)
5 how quickly the reserved bandwidth amount changes from one superframe 202 to
6 another. Although any suitable value for α may be used, an exemplary range of
7 values for α is 0.7 to 0.9.

8 [0041] FIG. 5 is a flow diagram 500 that illustrates another exemplary
9 method for bandwidth allocation in wireless network 100. Flow diagram 500
10 includes fourteen (14) blocks. Although the actions of the blocks of flow diagram
11 500 may be performed in other implementations and environments, FIGS. 1-4 are
12 used in particular to illuminate certain aspects of the method. For example, the
13 actions of flow diagram 500 may be performed by a device coordinator 102(C).
14 Additionally, the blocks designated with numerals in the 400s relate to
15 corresponding blocks of FIG. 4.

16 [0042] In a described implementation, the actions of three (3) blocks 402',
17 406', and 404' relate to a previous superframe 202(m-1) as indicated by the prime
18 mark. At block 402', (previous) bandwidth allocation requests from multiple
19 entities on behalf of multiple streams thereof are received. At block 406',
20 (previous) allocated bandwidth amounts for the multiple streams of the multiple
21 entities are determined. At block 404', (previous) unserviced bandwidth amounts
22 for the multiple streams of the multiple entities are noted.

23 [0043] These unserviced bandwidth amounts of the multiple streams from
24 the previous superframe 202(m-1) are considered when determining (i.e., are
25 factored into a determination of) allocated bandwidth amounts for the multiple

1 streams for the next superframe 202(m). The actions of eleven (11) blocks 402A,
2 502, 504, 406A-406E, 404A, 506, and 408A relate to a current superframe 202(m).
3 The block numerals of FIG. 5 in the 400s that have an alphabetical character
4 appended thereto (e.g., 402A, 406C, 408A, etc.) indicate a more-specific and/or
5 alternative implementation of the corresponding block in FIG. 4 for the current
6 superframe 202(m).

7 [0044] At block 402A, (current) bandwidth allocation requests for the
8 multiple streams are received from the multiple entities. For example, bandwidth
9 allocation requests 302 may be received at device coordinator 102(C) with each
10 such respective bandwidth allocation request 302 stipulating a respective
11 requested bandwidth amount.

12 [0045] At block 502, requested bandwidth amounts are segmented into
13 newly-arrived bandwidth amounts and unserviced bandwidth amounts for the
14 multiple streams of the multiple entities. For example, equation (2) above may be
15 used to compute the newly-arrived bandwidth amounts for the current superframe
16 202(m) from the requested bandwidth amounts as received at block 402A and the
17 unserviced bandwidth amounts of the previous superframe 202(m-1) as noted at
18 block 404'.

19 [0046] At block 504, reserved bandwidth amounts are updated for the
20 multiple streams of the multiple entities. For example, reserved bandwidth
21 amounts for the current superframe 202(m) may be computed in accordance with
22 equation (3) above using the reserved bandwidth amount for the previous
23 superframe 202(m-1) and the computed newly-arrived bandwidth amounts for the
24 current superframe 202(m) that are produced at block 502, as well as possibly a
25 smoothing factor.

1 [0047] The actions of five (5) blocks 406A-406E relate to determining
2 allocated bandwidth amounts for the multiple streams of the multiple entities. In
3 this example, the bandwidth units comprise time units. At block 406A, time units
4 are assigned to (previous) unserviced bandwidth amounts in ascending order. For
5 example, time units of the available bandwidth of data transmission period 204(B)
6 of the current superframe 202(m) may be assigned to unserviced bandwidth
7 amounts of the previous superframe 202(m-1) for the multiple streams of the
8 multiple entities starting with the lowest-valued unserviced bandwidth amount and
9 proceeding to the highest-valued unserviced bandwidth amount.

10 [0048] At block 406B, it is detected if the time resource of the superframe is
11 consumed. For example, it may be detected whether all available time units of
12 data transmission period 204(B) of the current superframe 202(m) have been
13 assigned. If so, the method of flow diagram 500 continues at block 404A. If not,
14 the method continues at block 406C.

15 [0049] At block 406C, time units are assigned to (current) reserved
16 bandwidth amounts proportionally. For example, additional available time units of
17 data transmission period 204(B) of the current superframe 202(m) may be
18 assigned to the reserved bandwidth amounts as computed at block 504 for the
19 multiple streams of the multiple entities on a proportional relative basis.

20 [0050] At block 406D, it is detected if the time resource of the superframe
21 is consumed. For example, it may be detected whether all available time units of
22 data transmission period 204(B) of the current superframe 202(m) have been
23 exhausted by assignment. If so, the method of flow diagram 500 continues at
24 block 404A. If not, the method continues at block 406E.

25

1 [0051] At block 406E, time units are assigned to (current) overloaded
2 bandwidth amounts in ascending order. For example, remaining available time
3 units of data transmission period 204(B) of the current superframe 202(m) may be
4 assigned to overloaded bandwidth amounts for the multiple streams of the multiple
5 entities starting with the lowest-valued overloaded bandwidth amount and
6 proceeding to the highest-valued overloaded bandwidth amount.

7 [0052] Each overloaded bandwidth amount is the as-of-yet unfulfilled
8 portion of the corresponding newly-arrived bandwidth amount. Hence, each
9 overloaded bandwidth amount may be computed by or derived as a result of
10 deducting the corresponding reserved bandwidth amount from the corresponding
11 newly-arrived bandwidth amount. Overloaded bandwidth amounts are addressed
12 further below with reference to FIGS. 6 and 7.

13 [0053] At block 404A, the (current) unallocated/unserviced bandwidth
14 amounts are calculated and noted for use in the next superframe. For example,
15 portions of newly-arrived bandwidth amounts to which no time units are assigned
16 in the current superframe 202(m) are unallocated/unserviced bandwidth amounts.
17 More specifically, unserviced bandwidth amounts can be calculated using equation
18 (1) above by subtracting the total allocated bandwidth amounts from
19 corresponding requested bandwidth amounts for the current superframe 202(m).
20 These unserviced bandwidth amounts may be stored for consideration in the next
21 superframe 202(m+1).

22 [0054] At block 506, the assigned time units are combined into an allocated
23 time slot for each stream of the multiple streams. For example, the time units for
24 each respective stream of the multiple streams that are assigned to the respective
25 stream by the actions of each of blocks 406A, 406C, and 406E may be summed to

1 form an allocated time slot 208 for each respective stream of the multiple streams
2 of the multiple entities.

3 [0055] At block 408A, allocated time slots for the multiple streams are sent
4 to the multiple entities. For example, information indicating position and duration
5 of the allocated time slots 208(1, 2 ... n) for respective streams of the multiple
6 streams may be transmitted to respective entities of the multiple entities as
7 allocation notifications 206 of an allocation broadcast period 204(A) of the current
8 superframe 202(m) (e.g., as an allocation broadcast 308). Thereafter, the method
9 of flow diagram 500 is repeated from block 402A.

10 [0056] FIG. 6 is an exemplary bandwidth allocation 600 for one stream 310
11 of one general device 102 over two superframes 202. Specifically, bandwidth
12 allocation 600 implements part of the method of flow diagram 500 (of FIG. 5) for
13 a single stream 310' of a single general device 102' over (primarily) two
14 superframes 202(m) and 202(m+1) in which the time units are generalized to
15 bandwidth units. Bandwidth allocation is performed for stream 310' of general
16 device 102' by device coordinator 102(C) in a wireless network 100. Although not
17 explicitly shown in bandwidth allocation 600, device coordinator 102(C) may also
18 be allocating available bandwidth to other streams 310 of other general devices
19 102.

20 [0057] In a previous superframe 202(m-1), device coordinator 102(C) has
21 retained or noted that 3 unserviced bandwidth (BW) units are associated with
22 stream 310' of device 102' for consideration in the next superframe 202(m). In
23 superframe 202(m) for this example, device 102' sends a bandwidth allocation
24 request that stipulates 10 requested bandwidth units on behalf of stream 310' to
25 device coordinator 102(C).

1 [0058] First (e.g., corresponding to block 406A of FIG. 5), 3 bandwidth
2 units are assigned to the 3 unserviced bandwidth units from superframe 202(m-1).
3 Second (e.g., corresponding to block 406C), 2 bandwidth units are then assigned
4 to the reserved bandwidth amount, which is given as 2 bandwidth units for
5 superframe 202(m) in this example. Third (e.g., corresponding to block 406E), 1
6 bandwidth unit is assigned toward the overloaded bandwidth amount, which totals
7 5 bandwidth units in this superframe (i.e., 10 requested bandwidth units – 5
8 bandwidth units assigned thusfar).

9 [0059] After assignment of bandwidth units to the overloaded bandwidth
10 amount, 6 total bandwidth units are allocated to stream 310' of device 102' in
11 superframe 202(m). Consequently, device coordinator 102(C) transmits an
12 allocation broadcast that notifies device 102' of the 6 allocated bandwidth units for
13 stream 310'. Hence, of the 10 requested bandwidth units, 4 bandwidth units are
14 still unallocated. There are therefore 4 unserviced bandwidth units resulting from
15 superframe 202(m) and retained in association with stream 310' of device 102' for
16 consideration in the next superframe 202(m+1).

17 [0060] In superframe 202(m+1), device 102' sends a bandwidth allocation
18 request that stipulates 12 requested bandwidth units on behalf of stream 310' to
19 device coordinator 102(C). First, 4 bandwidth units are assigned to the 4
20 unserviced bandwidth units from superframe 202(m). Second, 3 bandwidth units
21 are then assigned to the reserved bandwidth amount, which is 3 bandwidth units as
22 updated for superframe 202(m+1) in this example. Third, 2 bandwidth units are
23 assigned toward the overloaded bandwidth amount, which totals 5 bandwidth units
24 in this superframe (i.e., 12 requested bandwidth units – 7 bandwidth units assigned
25 thusfar).

1 [0061] After assignment of bandwidth units to the overloaded bandwidth
2 amount, 9 total bandwidth units are allocated to stream 310' of device 102' in
3 superframe 202(m+1). Consequently, device coordinator 102(C) transmits an
4 allocation broadcast that notifies device 102' of the 9 allocated bandwidth units for
5 stream 310'. Hence, of the 12 requested bandwidth units, 3 bandwidth units are
6 still unallocated. There are therefore 3 unserviced bandwidth units resulting from
7 superframe 202(m+1) and retained in association with stream 310' of device 102'
8 for consideration in the next superframe 202(m+2) (not specifically shown).

9 [0062] FIG. 7 is an exemplary bandwidth allocation 700 for two streams
10 310 of two general devices 102 over one superframe 202. Specifically, bandwidth
11 allocation 700 implements part of the method of flow diagram 500 (of FIG. 5) for
12 two streams 310(A) and 310(B) of two general devices 102(A) and 102(B),
13 respectively, over (primarily) one superframe 202(m) in which generic bandwidth
14 units are implemented as time units that are set to an exemplary millisecond level.
15 In this exemplary described implementation, data transmission period 204(B) of
16 each superframe 202 is 15 milliseconds, and each general device 102 includes
17 only one stream 310.

18 [0063] Bandwidth allocation may be performed for streams 310(A) and
19 310(B) of general devices 102(A) and 102(B) by a device coordinator 102(C) (not
20 specifically shown in FIG. 7) in a wireless network 100. Although not explicitly
21 shown in FIG. 7, more than two streams 310(A) and 310(B) (as well as fewer than
22 or more than two general devices 102(A) and 102(B)) may be involved in
23 bandwidth allocation 700.

24 [0064] From a previous superframe 202(m-1), device coordinator 102(C)
25 has retained or noted the number of unserviced milliseconds for each of stream

1 310(A) and stream 310(B) of device 102(A) and device 102(B), respectively.
2 Specifically, stream 310(A) of device 102(A) has 4 unserviced milliseconds, and
3 stream 310(B) of device 102(B) has 5 unserviced milliseconds. In subsequent
4 superframe 202(m), device 102(A) requests 7 milliseconds on behalf of stream
5 310(A), and device 102(B) requests 9 milliseconds on behalf of stream 310(B).

6 [0065] In Step 1, available milliseconds are assigned to the unserviced
7 milliseconds in ascending order. Hence, 4 milliseconds are assigned to stream
8 310(A) of device 102(A), and then 5 milliseconds are assigned to stream 310(B) of
9 device 102(B). The difference between the requested milliseconds and the
10 unserviced milliseconds is computed to derive the newly-arrived milliseconds
11 portion of the requested milliseconds.

12 [0066] In Step 2, reserved milliseconds are assigned in a proportional
13 fashion from the remaining available milliseconds. In this example, 2 reserved
14 milliseconds are associated with stream 310(A) of device 102(A), and 1 reserved
15 millisecond is associated with stream 310(B) of device 102(B). The difference
16 between the newly-arrived milliseconds and the reserved milliseconds is computed
17 to derive the still unfulfilled overloaded milliseconds. Thus, stream 310(A) of
18 device 102(A) has 1 overloaded millisecond, and stream 310(B) of device 102(B)
19 has 3 overloaded milliseconds.

20 [0067] In Step 3, any available milliseconds that remain unallocated are
21 assigned to the overloaded milliseconds. From Step 1 and Step 2, $4+5+2+1=12$
22 milliseconds have been assigned for unserviced and reserved milliseconds. The 3
23 (i.e., $15-12$) remaining available milliseconds are assigned to the unfulfilled
24 overloaded milliseconds in ascending order. Hence, 1 millisecond is assigned to
25 stream 310(A) of device 102(A) to completely fulfill its total 7 requested

1 milliseconds. The final 2 remaining available milliseconds are then assigned to
2 stream 310(B) of device 102(B). Stream 310(A) of device 102(A) therefore has 0
3 unallocated milliseconds, and stream 310(B) of device 102(B) has 1 unallocated
4 millisecond.

5 [0068] The combined sum of assigned milliseconds for stream 310(A) of
6 device 102(A) is $4+2+1=7$ milliseconds. Stream 310(A) of device 102(A) is thus
7 allocated a 7 millisecond timeslot by device coordinator 102(C). The combined
8 sum of assigned milliseconds for stream 310(B) of device 102(B) is $5+1+2=8$
9 milliseconds. Stream 310(B) of device 102(B) is thus allocated an 8 millisecond
10 timeslot by device coordinator 102(C). For superframe 202(m), device
11 coordinator 102(C) therefore notes stream 310(A) of device 102(A) as having 0
12 unserviced milliseconds and stream 310(B) of device 102(B) as having 1
13 unserviced millisecond.

14 [0069] The devices, actions, aspects, features, components, etc. of FIGS. 1-
15 7 are illustrated in diagrams that are divided into multiple blocks. However, the
16 order, interconnections, interrelationships, layout, etc. in which FIGS. 1-7 are
17 described and/or shown is not intended to be construed as a limitation, and any
18 number of the blocks can be modified, combined, rearranged, augmented, omitted,
19 etc. in any manner to implement one or more systems, methods, devices,
20 procedures, media, apparatuses, arrangements, etc. for bandwidth allocation
21 implementations. Furthermore, although the description herein includes
22 references to specific implementations (and the exemplary operating
23 environment/device of FIG. 8 below), the illustrated and/or described
24 implementations can be implemented in any suitable hardware, software,
25 firmware, or combination thereof and using any suitable device architecture(s),

1 wireless network protocol(s), bandwidth division scheme(s), wireless air
2 interface(s), and so forth.

3 [0070] FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary computing (or general device)
4 operating environment 800 that is capable of (fully or partially) implementing at
5 least one system, device, apparatus, component, arrangement, approach, method,
6 procedure, media, some combination thereof, etc. for bandwidth allocation
7 implementations as described herein. Operating environment 800 may be utilized
8 in the computer and network architectures described below.

9 [0071] Exemplary operating environment 800 is only one example of an
10 environment and is not intended to suggest any limitation as to the scope of use or
11 functionality of the applicable device (including computer, network node,
12 entertainment device, mobile appliance, general electronic device, etc.)
13 architectures. Neither should operating environment 800 (or the devices thereof)
14 be interpreted as having any dependency or requirement relating to any one or to
15 any combination of components as illustrated in FIG. 8.

16 [0072] Additionally, bandwidth allocation implementations may be realized
17 with numerous other general purpose or special purpose device (including
18 computing or wireless system) environments or configurations. Examples of well
19 known devices, systems, environments, and/or configurations that may be suitable
20 for use include, but are not limited to, personal computers, server computers, thin
21 clients, thick clients, personal digital assistants (PDAs) or mobile telephones,
22 watches, hand-held or laptop devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-
23 based systems, set-top boxes, programmable consumer electronics, video game
24 machines, game consoles, portable or handheld gaming units, network PCs,
25 minicomputers, mainframe computers, wired or wireless network nodes (including

1 general or specialized routers), distributed or multi-processing computing
2 environments that include any of the above systems or devices, some combination
3 thereof, and so forth.

4 [0073] Realizations for bandwidth allocation implementations may be
5 described in the general context of processor-executable instructions. Generally,
6 processor-executable instructions include routines, programs, modules, protocols,
7 objects, interfaces, components, data structures, etc. that perform and/or enable
8 particular tasks and/or implement particular abstract data types. Bandwidth
9 allocation implementations, as described in certain embodiments herein, may also
10 be practiced in distributed processing environments where tasks are performed by
11 remotely-linked processing devices that are connected through a communications
12 link and/or network. Especially but not exclusively in a distributed computing
13 environment, processor-executable instructions may be located in separate storage
14 media, executed by different processors, and/or propagated over transmission
15 media.

16 [0074] Exemplary operating environment 800 includes a general-purpose
17 computing device in the form of a computer 802, which may comprise any (e.g.,
18 electronic) device with computing/processing capabilities. The components of
19 computer 802 may include, but are not limited to, one or more processors or
20 processing units 804, a system memory 806, and a system bus 808 that couples
21 various system components including processor 804 to system memory 806.

22 [0075] Processors 804 are not limited by the materials from which they are
23 formed or the processing mechanisms employed therein. For example, processors
24 804 may be comprised of semiconductor(s) and/or transistors (e.g., electronic
25 integrated circuits (ICs)). In such a context, processor-executable instructions may

1 be electronically-executable instructions. Alternatively, the mechanisms of or for
2 processors 804, and thus of or for computer 802, may include, but are not limited
3 to, quantum computing, optical computing, mechanical computing (e.g., using
4 nanotechnology), and so forth.

5 [0076] System bus 808 represents one or more of any of many types of
6 wired or wireless bus structures, including a memory bus or memory controller, a
7 point-to-point connection, a switching fabric, a peripheral bus, an accelerated
8 graphics port, and a processor or local bus using any of a variety of bus
9 architectures. By way of example, such architectures may include an Industry
10 Standard Architecture (ISA) bus, a Micro Channel Architecture (MCA) bus, an
11 Enhanced ISA (EISA) bus, a Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA)
12 local bus, a Peripheral Component Interconnects (PCI) bus also known as a
13 Mezzanine bus, some combination thereof, and so forth.

14 [0077] Computer 802 typically includes a variety of processor-accessible
15 media. Such media may be any available media that is accessible by computer
16 802 or another (e.g., electronic) device, and it includes both volatile and non-
17 volatile media, removable and non-removable media, and storage and transmission
18 media.

19 [0078] System memory 806 includes processor-accessible storage media in
20 the form of volatile memory, such as random access memory (RAM) 840, and/or
21 non-volatile memory, such as read only memory (ROM) 812. A basic input/output
22 system (BIOS) 814, containing the basic routines that help to transfer information
23 between elements within computer 802, such as during start-up, is typically stored
24 in ROM 812. RAM 810 typically contains data and/or program
25

1 modules/instructions that are immediately accessible to and/or being presently
2 operated on by processing unit 804.

3 [0079] Computer 802 may also include other removable/non-removable
4 and/or volatile/non-volatile storage media. By way of example, FIG. 8 illustrates
5 a hard disk drive or disk drive array 816 for reading from and writing to a
6 (typically) non-removable, non-volatile magnetic media (not separately shown); a
7 magnetic disk drive 818 for reading from and writing to a (typically) removable,
8 non-volatile magnetic disk 820 (e.g., a “floppy disk”); and an optical disk drive
9 822 for reading from and/or writing to a (typically) removable, non-volatile optical
10 disk 824 such as a CD, DVD, or other optical media. Hard disk drive 816,
11 magnetic disk drive 818, and optical disk drive 822 are each connected to system
12 bus 808 by one or more storage media interfaces 826. Alternatively, hard disk
13 drive 816, magnetic disk drive 818, and optical disk drive 822 may be connected
14 to system bus 808 by one or more other separate or combined interfaces (not
15 shown).

16 [0080] The disk drives and their associated processor-accessible media
17 provide non-volatile storage of processor-executable instructions, such as data
18 structures, program modules, and other data for computer 802. Although
19 exemplary computer 802 illustrates a hard disk 816, a removable magnetic disk
20 820, and a removable optical disk 824, it is to be appreciated that other types of
21 processor-accessible media may store instructions that are accessible by a device,
22 such as magnetic cassettes or other magnetic storage devices, flash memory,
23 compact disks (CDs), digital versatile disks (DVDs) or other optical storage,
24 RAM, ROM, electrically-erasable programmable read-only memories (EEPROM),
25 and so forth. Such media may also include so-called special purpose or hard-

1 wired IC chips. In other words, any processor-accessible media may be utilized to
2 realize the storage media of the exemplary operating environment 800.

3 [0081] Any number of program modules (or other units or sets of
4 instructions/code) may be stored on hard disk 816, magnetic disk 820, optical disk
5 824, ROM 812, and/or RAM 840, including by way of general example, an
6 operating system 828, one or more application programs 830, other program
7 modules 832, and program data 834. Such instructions may include module(s) for
8 joining and participating in an ad hoc wireless network, module(s) for requesting
9 and receiving bandwidth allocations, module(s) for bandwidth allocation
10 procedures, data structure(s) to retain unserviced bandwidth amounts, and so forth.

11 [0082] A user may enter commands and/or information into computer 802
12 via input devices such as a keyboard 836 and a pointing device 838 (e.g., a
13 “mouse”). Other input devices 840 (not shown specifically) may include a
14 microphone, joystick, game pad, satellite dish, serial port, scanner, and/or the like.
15 These and other input devices are connected to processing unit 804 via
16 input/output interfaces 842 that are coupled to system bus 808. However, input
17 devices and/or output devices may instead be connected by other interface and bus
18 structures, such as a parallel port, a game port, a universal serial bus (USB) port,
19 an infrared port, an IEEE 1394 (“Firewire”) interface, an IEEE 802.11 or 802.15
20 or other general wireless interface, a Bluetooth® wireless interface, and so forth.

21 [0083] A monitor/view screen 844 or other type of display device may also
22 be connected to system bus 808 via an interface, such as a video adapter 846.
23 Video adapter 846 (or another component) may be or may include a graphics card
24 for processing graphics-intensive calculations and for handling demanding display
25 requirements. Typically, a graphics card includes a graphics processing unit

1 (GPU), video RAM (VRAM), etc. to facilitate the expeditious display of graphics
2 and the performance of graphics operations. In addition to monitor 844, other
3 output peripheral devices may include components such as speakers (not shown)
4 and a printer 848, which may be connected to computer 802 via input/output
5 interfaces 842.

6 [0084] Computer 802 may operate in a networked environment using
7 logical connections to one or more remote computers, such as a remote computing
8 device 850. By way of example, remote computing device 850 may be a personal
9 computer, a portable computer (e.g., laptop computer, tablet computer, PDA,
10 mobile station, etc.), a palm or pocket-sized computer, a watch, a gaming device, a
11 server, a router, a network computer, a peer device, another network node, or
12 another device type as listed above, and so forth. However, remote computing
13 device 850 is illustrated as a portable computer that may include many or all of the
14 elements and features described herein with respect to computer 802.

15 [0085] Logical connections between computer 802 and remote computer
16 850 are depicted as a local area network (LAN) 852 and a general wide area
17 network (WAN) 854. Such networking environments are commonplace in offices,
18 enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets, the Internet, fixed and mobile
19 telephone networks, ad-hoc and infrastructure wireless networks, other wireless
20 networks, gaming networks, some combination thereof, and so forth. Such
21 networks and communications connections are examples of transmission media.

22 [0086] When implemented in a LAN networking environment, computer
23 802 is usually connected to LAN 852 via a network interface or adapter 856.
24 When implemented in a WAN networking environment, computer 802 typically
25 includes a modem 858 or other component for establishing communications over

1 WAN 854. Modem 858, which may be internal or external to computer 802, may
2 be connected to system bus 808 via input/output interfaces 842 or any other
3 appropriate mechanism(s). It is to be appreciated that the illustrated network
4 connections are exemplary and that other manners for establishing communication
5 link(s), including wireless link(s), between computers 802 and 850 may be
6 employed.

7 **[0087]** In a networked environment, such as that illustrated with operating
8 environment 800, program modules or other instructions that are depicted relative
9 to computer 802, or portions thereof, may be fully or partially stored in a remote
10 media storage device. By way of example, remote application programs 860
11 reside on a memory component of remote computer 850 but may be usable or
12 otherwise accessible via computer 802. Also, for purposes of illustration,
13 application programs 830 and other processor-executable instructions such as
14 operating system 828 are illustrated herein as discrete blocks, but it is recognized
15 that such programs, components, and other instructions reside at various times in
16 different storage components of computing device 802 (and/or remote computing
17 device 850) and are executed by processor(s) 804 of computer 802 (and/or those
18 of remote computing device 850).

19 **[0088]** Although systems, media, devices, methods, procedures,
20 apparatuses, techniques, schemes, approaches, procedures, arrangements, and
21 other implementations have been described in language specific to structural,
22 logical, algorithmic, and functional features and/or diagrams, it is to be understood
23 that the invention defined in the appended claims is not necessarily limited to the
24 specific features or diagrams described. Rather, the specific features and diagrams
25 are disclosed as exemplary forms of implementing the claimed invention.